



EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

- 18-hole par 72 golf course.
- Driving Range and Practice putting green
- Clubhouse with pro shop, restaurant and lounge, and fireplace for use as a winter warming hut.
- Sledding hill
- Cross country ski use
- Maintenance building
- Storage building / storage garage
- Superintendent's residence
- Pump station
- Play structures
- 2 single basketball hoops
- picnic shelters
- 2 comfort stations
- Golfer rest shelters

4.2 ELMA MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

DESCRIPTION

Elma Meadows is a 220-acre facility functioning primarily as an 18-hole par 72 golf course in the Town of Elma, but also has a secondary use as a picnic grove and passive recreation area. The picnic area occupies approximately 25 acres of land. The property has impressive topography with highpoints in the northwest to lowlands in the southeast. The golf course takes advantage of this change of elevation, and the large grassy slopes being heavily used in the winter for sledding. The east and north sides of the park border Buffalo Creek.

Given its impressive topography and scenery, as well as reasonable rates, Elma Meadows has been a favorite with area golfers. An average of 55,000 rounds of golf are played here each year.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

Elma Meadows was acquired by the County in 1957. The winter sports component was ready in 1958 and the golf course was completed in the spring of 1959.

LOCAL CONTEXT

This Park and Golf Course lies about 20 miles south and east of the City of Buffalo. It lies on the east side of the Town of Elma, close to the Marilla Town line. It is also only minutes from the Village of East Aurora to the south. Access to the Park and golf course is easy from Route 400 from either the Jamison Road or Maple Street Exits, cutting over to Girdle Road to the park entrance. The area around the property is quite rural, with numerous newer residential developments having been built over the past 10-20 years. A few farms do still exist in this area of the County.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Elma Meadow's separate 25-acre park is unique when compared to the other County-owned golf course, Grover Cleveland. The park provides the surrounding communities areas for picnicing, playgrounds and a baseball court in addition to the eighteen-hole golf course. Reorganization and upgrade of its current setting would provide

the public with better facilities and the potential for additional recreational opportunities (ie. volleyball / tennis courts).

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- *The course needs to re-evaluate its fee schedule to prevent a money-losing scenario each year.*
- *General course improvements and enhancements need to be made to keep the course competitive in the area.*

RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

- *Painted and made other improvements/upgrades to the Clubhouse and other park buildings, including adding new air conditioner.*
- *Painted interior of Starter Shed*
- *Installed new pump in the pump house*
- *Installed new pump in pumphouse*
- *Repaired and/or rebuilt park tables*
- *Replaced doors on Shelter #7*
- *Stripped and re-roofed a number of park buildings*
- *Planned tee expansions*
- *Planned drainage work on course*
- *Planned implementation of top dressing / aeration program on green / tees.*
- *Planned installation of sand volleyball court in park*
- *Planned repaving of park road and course parking lot.*
- *Removed trees around practice greens*
- *Installed new tee-time system*
- *Reconstructed sand traps*
- *Installed hole sponsor signs*
- *Installed new cart paths in certain areas.*
- *Built concession building next to starter shed.*

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Follow the recommendations for course improvements recently made by the United State Golf Association (USGA) in their USGA Green Section – Turf Advisory Service Report, July 29, 2002, including turf grass conditions, drainage, etc.*
- *The County must re-evaluate its current fee rates and*

NEARBY PARKS WITH UNIQUE FEATURES
(WITHIN A 5-MILE RADIUS)

Town of Elma:

- *Elma Town Park (separated from the County Park by Buffalo Creek)
A 63-acre town park, which includes a community building with meeting rooms*
- *Elma Village Green
A 30-acre town park, which includes a senior center*
- *Knabb Road Park
A 53-acre undeveloped town park*

Village of East Aurora:

- *Hamlin Park
Includes a rotary bandstand and a quarter-mile running track*
- *Hawk Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
Educational programs available*
- *Sinking Pond Wildlife Sanctuary*
- *Knox Farm State Park*

schedules and consider increasing its fees to “break even” in its operations and maintenance of the course. Current low rates and challenging play has made Elma Meadows one of the best golf values in Western New York (over 50,000 rounds per year).

- *Consider additional use of the clubhouse facility as a revenue generator, i.e. meetings and special events, etc. Consider major upgrades and improved maintenance in order to raise course standards and expectations (i.e. leverage higher fees by improving the facilities).*
- *Promote four-seasons use of Elma Meadows, including sledding and cross country skiing, nature walks, picnicking and associated play areas, etc.*
 - *Increase the seasonal attraction of the clubhouse, i.e. utilize the fireplace more often, promote more sledding, winter sports competitions, cross country-skiing, and seasonal events and tournaments, etc.*
- *Consider adding a volleyball court to the park area near the picnic shelters.*
- *Provide traffic calming measures along the entrance road to prevent speeding.*
- *Improve the picnic shelters*
- *Remove upper backstop. Re-install at ballfield by bleachers.*
- *Aesthetic improvements are needed at the park maintenance building.*
- *Given the park’s isolation, additional park patrols may be needed to prevent undesirable and illegal activities.*

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES / PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

PRIORITY KEY

- S Short Term *(1 - 3 years)*
- M Mid Term *(4 - 10 years)*
- L Long Term *(11 - 20+ years)*
- O Ongoing *(Continuing Efforts each year)*